



Fraud Newsletter

February 2009

Sheriff Steve Mansfield

Be Aware of Construction Scams and Frauds

The residents of Lewis County have just gone through a period of extreme weather leading to flooding in many parts of the county. These natural disasters are a prime hunting ground for thieves and scam artists. If you have had property damaged during the flood and are attempting to have repairs made, please make sure you know the contractors who are doing the work. Here is a short list of things you should do to help protect yourself.

1. You should always check references of a contractor before work is started.
2. Always be leery of contractors demanding full payment before work begins.
3. Check to make sure the contractor is licensed to do the work he intends to do.
4. Always obtain an estimate before agreeing to any construction work.
5. Be leery of estimates that are substantially lower than others you have obtained for the same work.

Below are some sources to check when considering a contractor:

1. To check a contractor's registration with Labor and Industries, go to "contractors.lni.wa.gov" or call 1-800-647-0982.
2. Report fraud to the Attorney General's Office by filing a complaint online at "atg.wa.gov" or call 1-800-551-4636.
3. Report an unregistered contractor to Labor and Industries by calling the agency's fraud hotline at 1-888-811-5974 or online at "contractors.lni.wa.gov".

*"If it's too good to be true
it normally is"*

*"Vigilance is the only
real protection against
fraud"*

Lewis County Sheriff's Office – 360-740-1329

